GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2320
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
ROTTEN FOODGRAINS
Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh;Ramadass Prof. M;Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao;Thummar Shri Virjibhai

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge foodgrains stocks are rotting in Government warehouses and in the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) and are no more fit for human consumption;

(b) if so, the quantity of such foodgrains spoiled during each of the last three years and thereafter till date alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of corrective steps initiated to check recurrence of such wastages;

(d) whether responsibilities have been fixed for this poor maintenance; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government against the officers held responsible?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. However, sometimes foodgrains are damaged during storage due to exposure of stocks lying in open godowns, vagaries of weather, natural calamities, such as, flash flood, cyclone etc. Besides, stocks also get damaged during transit, multiple handling and long distance transportation due to their perishable nature. The quantity of damaged foodgrains in last three years and thereafter till date is as under:

Sl.No.	Year	Quantity (in lakh MT)
1.	2004-05	0.97
2.	2005-06	0.95
3.	2006-07	0.25
4.	From April 2007 to October 2007	0.32

(c): With a view to preserve the stocks in storage and to check recurrence of such wastages, the following steps are being taken by FCI:

(i) Monitoring the quality of foodgrains at the time of procurement and during storage.

(ii) Ensuring that all FCI godowns are constructed as per specifications and foodgrains are stored in scientific manner. Besides, regular periodic inspection of the stocks of foodgrains are carried out by qualified and trained staff.

(iii) Undertaking prophylactic and curative treatment of stocks regularly and issuing the foodgrains by following the principle of `First in-First out` (FIFO).

(d) & (e): Whenever instances of poor maintenance of stocks of foodgrains in the godowns are noticed, these are investigated and based on the investigation report, responsibilities are fixed and action is taken.